

U.S. Application Serial No. 09/852,100
(Attorney Docket No. 31896-67200)

Remarks

The pending claims are claims 4-8 and 34-39. New claims 40-48 are added herein. By this amendment, claims 1-3 and 10-33 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims in a divisional or continuation application or applications. Claim 8 has been amended to replace the phrase "an amino acid sequence with homology of 90% or greater to SEQ ID NO: 2 linked to a peptide sequence" with "amino acid 185 to amino acid 217 of SEQ ID NO: 2." The amendment broadens the scope of claim 8 to the extent that it includes all fusion proteins that contain amino acids 185-217 of SEQ ID NO: 2, regardless of whether the fusion proteins have at least 90% sequence homology with SEQ ID NO: 2. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 8 does not compromise the scope of equivalency of each element in claim 8 under the doctrine of equivalents. Claims 34, 36 and 39, which are dependent from claim 8, have been amended to delete elements that lack antecedent basis.

Applicants herein add claim 40, which is dependent from claim 7. Claim 40 is at least supported by original claims 21-22 and paragraphs 94-95 of the specification. Applicants also add claims 41-45, which are supported at least by original claims 4-7 and 21-22 and paragraphs 41-48, 94-95 and 132-136 of the specification. In addition, Applicants add claim 46, which is at least supported by Table 2 of the specification, and claims 47-48, which are at least supported by paragraph 126 of the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments herein do not introduce new matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments.

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Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any further suggestions or recommendations to facilitate allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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